

Remarks

The numbered paragraphs of the Office action are responded to through the corresponding numbered paragraphs below. The applicant has addressed each issue in turn and, for clarity, has provided a heading for each issue.

Specification

1. The Examiner reminded the applicant "of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure." The applicant has requested that the abstract be amended to remove the phrase "The Invention." The original submission of the abstract was 62 words and was submitted on a single separate sheet. No use of the terms "means" or "said" or "the disclosure" was included. The applicant believes that the requested amendment to the abstract, paragraph [0054], brings makes the abstract fully compliant with the Examiner's reminder of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this reminder and acceptance of the abstract.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

2. The Examiner rejected claim 5 "under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite." The applicant has requested that claim 5 be canceled, without prejudice. The applicant believes that the cancellation of this claim and these comments are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 102

3. The Examiner provided the citation to "35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action." The applicant believes no response is required for this paragraph.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9–11, 14 and 15 "under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee." The applicant has requested that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9–11, 14 and 15 be cancelled, without prejudice. The applicant believes that the cancellation of these claims and these comments are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

4. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 10, 11 and 15 "under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Staats." The applicant has requested that claims 1, 10, 11 and 15 be cancelled, without prejudice. The applicant believes that the cancellation of these claims and these comments are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

5. The Examiner provided the citation to "35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the bases for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action." The applicant believes that no response is required for this paragraph.

6-7. The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 12 "under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Staats." The applicant has requested that claims 5 and 12 be canceled without prejudice. The applicant believes that the cancellation of these claims and these comments are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. The Examiner objected to claims 3, 6, 7, 8, 13, 16–20 "as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." The applicant has requested that claims 3, 6, 7, 8, 13, 16 and 20 be amended to be rewritten to in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Because claims 17–19 depend on claim 16, which has been amended to be rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, making claim 16 allowable and claims 17–19 allowable as being dependent on an allowable claim. Because, this amendment increases the number of independent claims beyond three, the applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge the additional claim fees to Deposit Account No. 19–2814. Thank you. The applicant believes that the amendments of these claims and these comments are fully responsive to the objection of this paragraph and that these claims (claims 3, 6, 7, 8,

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Group Art Unit: 3611
Confirmation No. 5476

13, 16-20) are allowable over all known prior art. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection and allowance of these claims.

Conclusion

9. The Examiner has provided information concerning "prior art made of record and not relied upon." The applicant appreciates the Examiner's search and respectfully requests including of this "prior art" among the cited references.

The Examiner provided information concerning communication and/or inquiries concerning this case. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's willingness to communicate and assistance regarding this case and believes no response to this paragraph is necessary.

The applicant has requested that claims 3, 6, 7, 8, 13 and 16-20 be amended as previously described and that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9-12 and 14-15 be cancelled. The applicant therefore believes that all issues and points of the Examiner's Office action have been addressed. Applicant believes that the pending claims 3, 6, 7, 8, 13, and 16-~~20~~, are patentable over all known prior art. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application.

The applicant has also authorized the Commissioner to charge any additional fees required, including additional claim fees and extension of time fees to Deposit Account No. 19-2814.

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Respectfully submitted this 16th day of June, 2005.



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